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March 28, 2018

Dear Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kenneth Reveiz, and I serve as Alder from New Haven's 14th Ward. I am writing to you on behalf of myself and my constituents today to express support for House Bill 5544: An Act Concerning Connecticut Misdemeanor Sentences. This Sentencing Reform measure would reduce the maximum length of all misdemeanor convictions in Connecticut to 364 days.

This technical fix could sever a segment of the prison-to-deportation pipeline, which now funnels community members who served their time in state correctional facilities directly into immigration detention and deportation proceedings. In practice, this has meant that individuals who served months or less for minor charges can be taken away from their families and communities.

Again, I very much support this proposal which would address this disturbing situation. Connecticut must do what it can to address a process by which people with mere misdemeanor convictions can be sent directly to deportation proceedings. This practice undermines public safety and peace, as well as basic notions of justice and fairness.

Respectfully submitted,

KENNETH REVEIZ

Alder, Ward 14